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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/765,623	01/22/2001	Hiroyuki Kaneko	1095.1152/JDH	8796
21171	7590	05/12/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			SHAW, JOSEPH D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2141	
DATE MAILED: 05/12/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/765,623

Applicant(s)

KANEKO, HIROYUKI

Examiner

Joseph D Shaw

Art Unit

2141

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --***Period for Reply****A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2001.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Server for Determining a Using Environment for Groups of Users.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ulrich et al. (6,344,794) in view of Gottfurcht (6,611,881).

a. As per claim 1 and 6, Ulrich teaches a:

using environment specifying means for specifying a using environment corresponding to a user having logged in (a user logs into the Personnel View and can only change information stored in the central server for that user login unless otherwise authorized, col. 11, line 49 - col. 12, line 27); and

using environment setting means for setting an environment which conforms to a using environment specified by the using environment specifying means (inherent, if a system is going to enforce permissions

Art Unit: 2141

for a user to modify information, those security settings were applied to the system for the user login).

However, Ulrich does not explicitly teach a group specifying means for determining the group in which a predetermined user having logged in belongs to and specifying the environment based on the group specified by the group specifying means. Gottfurcht teaches determining if a user belongs to a group and applying settings based on the group (if a user is a member of a business group, then the user has access to business accounts associated with the group, determining that the user is a member of a group is inherent; col. 11, lines 19-34).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Ulrich invention to include users belonging to groups and assigning settings based on those groups, as taught by Gottfurcht, because with group settings, when modifications are needed, changes only need to be made to a group instead of each individual user, saving an administrator time and effort.

b. As per claim 2, Ulrich discloses the invention modified by Gottfurcht as described above. Furthermore, Gottfurcht teaches:

the group comprising one or more users (the user belongs to the business group; col. 11, lines 19-34).

c. As per claim 3, Ulrich discloses the invention modified by Gottfurcht as described above and furthermore teaches:

databases divided physically or logically according to the groups, wherein the using environment setting means sets a database

Art Unit: 2141

corresponding to a group specified by the group specifying means (personnel searches can be made to the personnel database, so the database is divided for each personnel, wherein each user can change their information in the personnel database based on their login; col. 11, line 49 - col. 12, line 27; where Gottfurcht taught that users can be equivalent to groups as taught above).

d. As per claim 5, Ulrich discloses the invention modified by Gottfurcht as described above and furthermore teaches:

processing means for performing a process corresponding to a request from a user, wherein the processing means performs a process in an environment for each group set by the using environment setting means (user can edit information in the database based on the user login entered, wherein the permissions set that allow the user to edit information are the using environment; col. 11, line 49 - col. 12, line 27; where Gottfurcht taught that users can be equivalent to groups as taught above).

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ulrich et al. (6,344,794) in view of Gottfurcht (6,611,881), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Brookes (5,428,778).

e. As per claim 4, Ulrich discloses the invention modified by Gottfurcht as described above. However, the modified Ulrich invention does not explicitly teach a table which relates user information supplied by the user at login to a group in which each user belongs to. Brookes teaches that a group table can be used to determine if a user

Art Unit: 2141

is a member of a group. Inherently, that user information was supplied to the table (col. 5, line 56 - col. 6, line 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the modified Ulrich invention to include a table for associating user information specified by the user with the group in which that user belongs, as taught by Brookes, providing lookup tables to associate information in computers is a well-known and standard method for relating data associated with each other.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Shaw whose telephone number is 703-305-0094. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday and alternate Fridays, 7am - 4pm.

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 703-305-4003. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Art Unit: 2141

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Joseph Shaw
Examiner
AU 2141



RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER